

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
FINFISH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2600 WASHINGTON AVENUE, NEWPORT NEWS, VA
VMRC CONFERENCE ROOM, 4TH FLOOR**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Ernest Bowden
Mr. Walter Rogers
Mr. Wynston Holbrook
Mr. Jeff Deem
Mr. Russell Gaskins
Mr. Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr
Dr. Ken Neill
Mr. Samuel Swift
Mr. Robert Weagley
Mr. Tom Powers
Mr. William Laine, Jr.
Mr. Pete Nixon
Mr. Lyle Jett

VMRC STAFF

Mr. Jack Travelstead
Mr. Rob O'Reilly
Ms. Sonya Davis
Mr. Joe Grist
Ms. Stephanie Iverson
Mr. Mike Johnson
Mr. Joe Cimino
Mr. Lewis Gillingham
Ms. Alicia Middleton
MPO Mike Morris

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Chris Vaughan

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Wayne Mallory
Mr. Frank Kearney

I. Introductions; Announcements

Chairman Bowden called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Mr. Travelstead introduced Mr. Lyle Jett who was reappointed to FMAC, as an advisor on Menhaden issues.

II. Approval of minutes from the June 19, 2007 meeting

The minutes were approved.

III. Old Business

a. Continue discussion of possible changes to the gill net restrictions associated with two management areas to reduce user conflicts.

Mr. Travelstead provided the Committee with copies of two email responses that favored continuing the gill net restrictions in the Hampton Roads Management Area. Mr. Travelstead also informed FMAC that Associate Board member Mr. Rick Robins contacted several of the yacht clubs operating in the area of the Hampton Roads Management Area, all of which were in favor of maintaining the current regulation.

Mr. O'Reilly informed the Committee that the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) did not have any comments on this issue. He reminded the Committee that there was interest in a Multi-use study conducted previously by VIMS, in that it may have been useful regarding this issue. However, individuals involved with that study suggested, its findings would not be relevant here.

Following several comments by Committee members and Mr. Travelstead, Chairman Bowden suggested that this issue be reexamined at the September FMAC meeting. He requested that staff contact any individuals with an interest in either of the management areas, and inform them that they should be present at the September meeting. He stated that it would be a good deal more productive for the Committee if interested parties could respond to specific questions regarding use in the two areas.

IV. New Business

Update on the 2007 Recreational Striped Bass Fishery and update on the 2008 Commercial and Recreational Tautog Fishery.

Mr. O'Reilly presented FMAC with a summary of several meetings from an Ad Hoc Committee that met to discuss the 2008 recreational striped bass fishery. Mr. O'Reilly informed the Committee that the recreational fishery exceeded its target quota in 2006, and that the Ad Hoc Committee had developed 5 options to reduce the harvest for 2008. He also noted that VMRC is required, by regulation to manage the quota, and as such, some action needs to be taken to reduce the amount of effort and harvest in the recreational fishery.

Mr. O'Reilly gave a detailed explanation of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) process. He informed FMAC that there was some question as to the accuracy of the MRFSS 2006 striped bass harvest estimate for Virginia. He pointed out that a particular concern was the estimated number of fish over 34 inches.

Mr. Powers presented an analysis of MRFSS estimates for the past five years, which illustrated that the proportion of the annual harvest that was greater than 38

inches was notably higher in 2006, than the previous four years. This was especially true for Wave 6 (November-December) estimates.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Monday, September 17, 2007.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.